January 5, 2015

Honors Humanities

**Dialectic and the Intellectual Midwife**

Tonight **read and annotate** p. 10-11 (“Philosophical Methodology - Socratic Dialectic”) of the philosophy packet from November. We’ll be spending a few more days stretching our limbs in the packet before diving into the deep waters of Plato.

In the packet, Smith uses the phrase “intellectual midwife.” I would like you to do a little research into what a midwife is and then write about this phrase. **Your writing should be at least one page**:

1. What is a midwife? How does one become a midwife? Why do some people prefer them to doctors?
2. Who is being described as an “intellectual midwife”? In what way is this person acting like a midwife? Try to think of as many possible connections between what a midwife does and who she works with and what an “intellectual midwife” does and who she works with. Do the two differ in any significant ways?